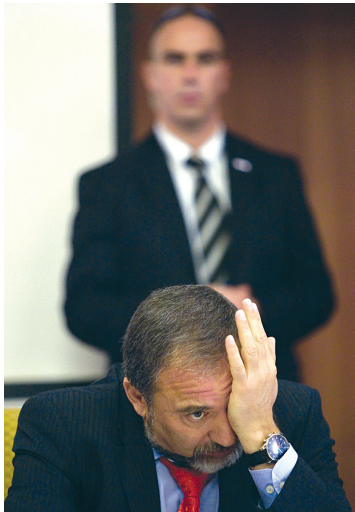


Price of a barrel of petroleum today:
US\$ 40.18

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS
BACKING BIBI



Israel's Yisrael Beiteinu party leader Avigdor Lieberman is seen before giving a speech at the 'Conference of Presidents' in Jerusalem, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. Far-right Israeli politician Lieberman endorsed Benjamin Netanyahu for prime minister on Thursday, all but guaranteeing that Netanyahu will be the country's next leader.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS
HE'S BAAACK!!!



In this June 15, 2008, file photo, Tiger Woods tees off during the fourth round of the US Open championship at Torrey Pines Golf Course on in San Diego. Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship after a 254-day break from competition.

See *Sports Today*

Paseo Herencia kicks off Carnival weekend



PALM BEACH – On Wednesday evening, Paseo Herencia Mall in front of the Holiday Inn on Palm Beach invited the most recently elected queens, princes,



panchos, and fabulous steel drum bands to participate in a mini Carnival. The brass band entered the crowd of people who were anxiously waiting for the show. They “Jumped UP” on the stage at the Paseo Herencia Mall in front of the Water Light Show.

Continued on Next Page

Red Cross Holland Visits Prime Minister Oduber



ORANJESTAD - On Thursday afternoon the delegation of Red Cross Holland visited the Prime Minister Nelson Oduber. The group consisted of Mr. Paul Smeulders, Director and Project Leader, Mrs. Hanneke van Sambeek, Cluster Manager Management, Strategy and Counsel and Mrs. Ingrid Jansen, Program Manager.

This Delegation was accompanied by Mr. Greg Peterson, President of Red Cross Aruba, and also Mr. Agustin Vrolijk, Director of Department of International Affairs.

Prime Minister Oduber, thanked them for their visit and wished them a pleasant stay in Aruba.

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Paseo Herencia kicks off Carnival weekend



Continued from Front Page
Everyone enjoyed the fabulous evening as the steel drum bands competed against each other for the most terrific sounds.

Carnival VIP's danced on stage for every one to see as a pre-event for the Grand Parade coming this weekend. □

Photos by Julia Renfro





PASEO HERENCIA MALL • T 586 8443

Yes we can!
celebrate President's Week in Aruba
Where? at T.G.I. Fridays of course!
Good Food, Great Fun!



Phred & Candy Borello honored at the Divi Village Resort



ORANEJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Village Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here,

are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Village Resort which they call their home away from Phred & Candy Borello were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba after coming for 24 consecutive years. Next year they will be back to celebrate their 50 anniversary.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA together with Phred & Candy and also Hilda Mills from Divi Village Resort. □



Mr. Simon & Mrs. Berty Van Iterson Honored as Distinguished Guests



ORANJESTAD - The Aruba Tourism Authority has recently honored Mr. Simon & Mrs. Berty Iterson as distinguished guest of our Island, for have been visiting Aruba for the past 18 years. According to the story that ATA received, Mr. Simon Iterson is well known amongst the community since they came here for the first time in 1991, and since then they visit Aruba once or twice a year. They love our sun, ocean and white sandy beaches, even though they keep themselves busy with offering guidance to students of Colegio Arubano

who are planning to attend the University of Leiden. This is where Mr. Iterson has been functioning as a deacon for the past 38 years.

He tells us that he helped many students during their studies at Leiden. When the Iterson couple is in Aruba, they take advantage of the opportunity to visit their acquaintances here in Aruba. They kept in close contact with many of the past students, who studied Law or Notary at the University of Leiden. For example the former Prime-Minister Henny Eman, Notary Eman and many other Arubans who started of as students and now are friends with the deacon. Because of his close relation with the Eman family, he will be coming to Aruba in September to help with the election.

On this occasion Mr. Castro Perez, representative of ATA presented the certificate and thanked Mr. & Mrs. Iterson for their loyalty and appreciation for our Island of Aruba. □

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Vincent & Dorothy Russo honored at the Bucuti Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Bucuti Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador

of goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Bucuti Resort which they call their home away from home. Vincent & Dorothy Russo were honored as a Distinguished visitor for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 10 years. Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Vincent & Dorothy and also Prince from the Bucuti Resort. □



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Enjoy breathtaking sights of
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White House, the most visited tourist
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Sunrise 9:00 am / Sunset 3:30 pm
Duration: approx 2 hrs 30 min
Pick up: 8:30 am & 3 p.m. daily
Price: \$ 70,- p.p. regular tour:

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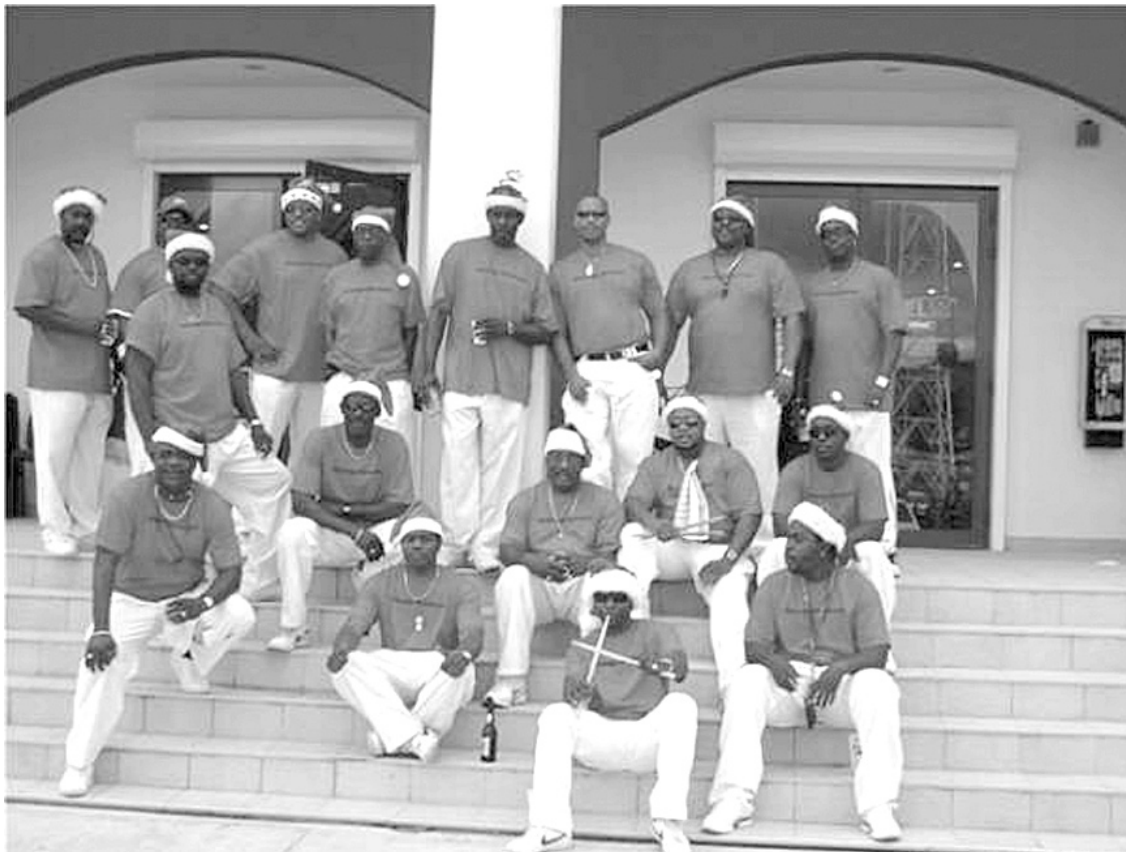
NEW ARRIVALS

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RENAISSANCE MALL, L.G. SMITH BOULEVARD 82, ORANJESTAD
WWW.FERRAGAMO.COM

Tonight they perform at Renaissance Marketplace

St. Maarten's best will be in Aruba for Carnival 55



ORANJESTAD - The "Soualouiga, Jump-Up Brass Band" whom are very popular in St. Maarten are in Aruba to celebrate the 55th year of our amazing and luscious Carnival. This brass band is backing for several different musicians of the Antilles and Aruba. They currently reside in St. Maarten with their leader and musical director Mr. Erwin Martina, who directed the first brass band of Curacao, "Brass

Revolution" for many years.

"Soualouiga, Jump-Up Brass Band" is the only brass band in St. Maarten and they play at several different events in St. Maarten and neighboring islands. "Soualouiga" is well known for the drum festival they have been organizing for the past 4 years in St. Maarten, which has participants of many bands from all over the Caribbean. According to the

group, their most impressive trip has been coming to Aruba to celebrate Carnival 50.

"Soualouiga, Jump-Up Brass Band" is already here and will remain in Aruba till the 25th of February. The group consists of 25 musicians and they are very happy for being able to be and stay in Aruba the 55th Carnival celebration that is ongoing.

On Saturday night at 8:00pm,

the group will be presenting at the Renaissance Marketplace. All those who finish enjoying of the Carnival in San Nicolas, are welcome to visit Renaissance Marketplace to

continue the night's celebration with Brass band all the way from St. Maarten, amongst good food establishments and shops available at Renaissance Marketplace. □

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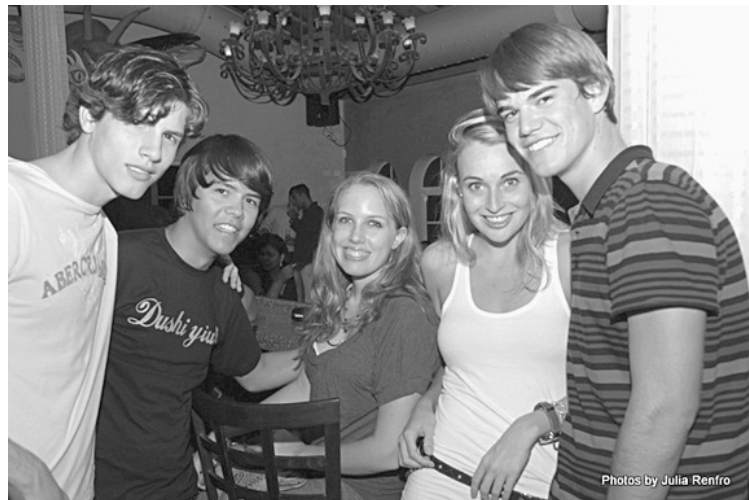
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Tonight at the Village across from the Radisson Resort

Chino Latino goes back in time tonight



Photos by Julia Renfro



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For reservations please call 297 582 3677 or visit our website www.elgaucho-aruba.com



Photos by Julia Renfro

PALMBEACH—Every Friday go back to the 80, 90 and 2000 at Chino Latino in The Village with a live DJ starting at 11 pm till 3 am, the perfect way to kick-start your weekend

On Sunday's, Chino Latino goes Brunch "a la carte", not waiting in line for the buffet, just sit back a order as much as you want. Enjoy 4 cold appetizers, 5 hot appetizers,



Photos by Julia Renfro



Photos by Julia Renfro



Photos by Julia Rönro



Photos by Julia Rönro



Photos by Julia Rönro

5 entrees and 4 desserts all in tapas style. All the food is from the Asian and Latin food menu, a must try for a perfect combination for only \$30 \$ including soft drinks, juices, coffee, tea, mimosa and champagne. Join us every Sunday from 11am till 2.30 pm

Every Wednesday night, Chino Latino turns into "BARRIO LATINO" with a live band starting 11 pm, playing the best Spanish and Latin music till 2 am. All night long enjoy the best mojitos on the island for only \$5. This is the best place to meet the locals who like the night life and to have fun.

The kitchen at Chino Latino is open daily from 11 am till 2 am. ☐



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For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357
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The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island!

SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

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Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm
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 For reservations call 523-6195
 Located next to the Crystal Casino

*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show menu





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PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

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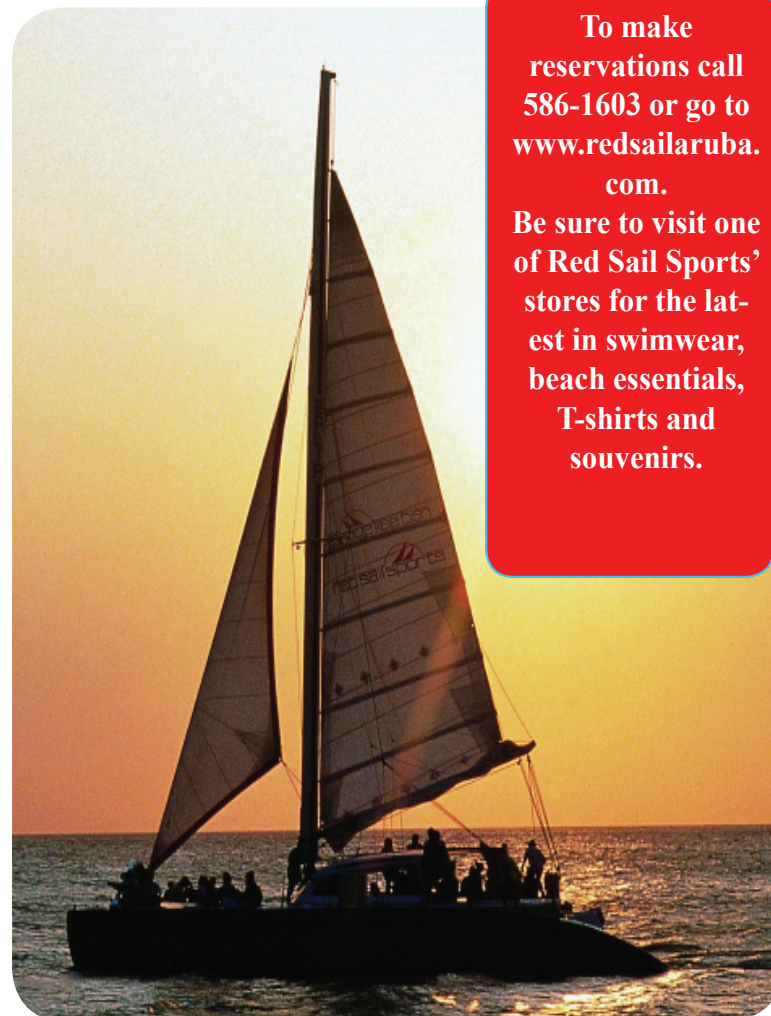
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Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.

Every Friday The Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must do activity

Experience the fun and excitement of sailing Mexican-style aboard one of Red Sail Sports' luxurious catamarans. The 2-hour sail takes you along Aruba's scenic coastline, while being delighted by live Mariachi Music. This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.



To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



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Adults	\$59
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red sail sports.

As good as it gets The ULTIMATE in Seafood tonight at Moby Dick's

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste. Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu



for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!

**For More information and Reservations
Call: 586 8333**



Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours. Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian. With a Sicilian-style thin crust, dripping with cheese and fresh-made tomato sauce, this pizza comes with a variety of toppings in the meat and veggie categories. Pasta dishes, full Italian meals like Lasagne and veal Osso Buco, fresh salads and rich desserts are also on the menu.



Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust recipe was handed down by an Italian chef, known locally as "the pizza master", in the French student city of Montpellier in 1969. This recipe has been perfected over the years to such a point where Casa Tua is known on the island these days for the best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach
 open 5pm to 11pm.
Casa Tua Downtown
 open 11am to 11pm,
 Sundays 5pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations call
Palm Beach: 586 8470
Downtown: 588 5695
 Or ask your concierge.



Team of the Year Crystal & Seaport Casino



Changes in the water bill of W.E.B. Aruba N.V. concerning the bill of January 2009



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Number di cliente : 10829870
Number di parcela : 25963-00
Number di referencia : 1259768
Number : MARIA ZERE ALKINERE
Adres : PONTON 1356

Number di parcela : 25963-00
Number di cliente : 10829870
Number di referencia : 1259768
Periodo di cuenta : jun 2008
Ultimo dia pa paga : 14 aug. 2008
PERIODO ACTUAL : AWG 242.25

CMB : 28515701
RBT : 3071081
Aruba Bank : 425736
Banco di Caribe : 250680917101

Fecha	Dianan	consumo m ³
07/02/2008	29	22
06/03/2008	31	40
05/03/2008	30	49
04/03/2008	30	40
03/04/2008	28	37
02/05/2008	33	44
01/03/2008	30	38
12/04/2007	31	33
11/03/2007	31	38
Number meter		3468786
Stand meter		458

SALDO ANTERIOR	1323.75
PAGO	745.80 CR }
SALDO PERIODO ANTERIOR	577.95
Specificacion	jun 2008
Consumo 1	3 m ³ @ AWG 4.55 13.65
Consumo 2	3 m ³ @ AWG 5.40 16.20
Consumo 3	6 m ³ @ AWG 7.55 45.30
Consumo 4	8 m ³ @ AWG 16.10 128.80
Consumo Adicional	2 m ³ @ AWG 18.65 37.30
Huur di meter	1.00
TOTAL PERIODO ACTUAL	242.25

Tarifa : A
Deposito : AWG 80.00

Debe di e periodo actual

Debe cu no ta inclui e periodo actual

Ultimo dia pa paga 14 aug 2008	Fecha di estado di cuenta 05 juli 2008
Periodo di cuenta Jun 2008	Mensahenan Pa informacion tocante bo cuenta yama nos number directo: 525-4200
Total periodo actual AWG.242.25	Saldo periodo anterior AWG 577.95



* If you paid the amount "periodo anterior" you owe the "periodo actual"

Here you can see the debt of previous period(s), what has been paid already and adjustments



ORANJESTAD – Crystal and Seaport casinos announced their star winners at a small gathering hosted at the Renaissance Convention Center. Each year the two casinos elects the Team of the Year winners from among quarterly winners and this year their stellar constellation consisted of 2nd quarter nominee, from the heart of the house, Ca Tung Mak, Race & Sport Book, 4th quarter nominee from the front of the house Thomas Dania, Crystal Casino Slot, 4th quarter nominee Supervisor Richella Brete, of the Casino Hosting Department and 1st quarter nominee Manager Gerla Penja, a member of the Operations Team at the Crystal Casino, who won the ultimate title of Manager of the Year.

Also nominated from the Heart of the House, for the 1st quarter Maximina Winterdaal; for the 3rd quarter, Juana Geerman, both Crystal Casino Cleaners and for the 4th quarter, Jermaine Wilson, Crystal Casino Cage. Nominated from the Front of the House, for the 1st quarter Elizabeth Monsanto, Seaport Casino Beverage; for the 2nd quarter, Rosaria Wernet, Seaport Casino Slot and for the 3rd quarter Raymond Figaroa, Operation Crystal Casino. Also nominated for Supervisor of the Year, 3rd quarter nominee Michael Peterson, Crystal Casino Slot, and for Manager of the Year 2nd quarter nominee Miguel Bruges, Operation Crystal Casino. Queta Werleman, Human Resources Manager, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino helped emcee the ceremony and introduce the winners at a casual reception, hosted at the Renaissance Convention Center over cocktails and sushi. □

OECD must assume active role in 'tax haven' discussions, says Netherlands Antilles minister

WILLEMSTAD, Curacao: In the global economic crisis, many countries are now more than ever taking action against "tax haven" jurisdictions but, according to State Secretary of Finance of the Netherlands Antilles, Alex Rosaria, while national tax administrations have every right to draw up objective criteria upon which to designate "tax havens", unfortunately many countries subjectively blacklist jurisdictions. "The problem is that there is no widely accepted definition of what constitutes a 'tax haven'. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) should step up to the plate and develop global standards in international tax cooperation," Rosaria said. "The international community must realize that it is perfectly legitimate for small economies lacking natural resources to support the development

of well-regulated financial services. Based on this commitment, the Netherlands Antilles have not only been working with the OECD and the EU, but have also been commended by the OECD Secretary-General," he added. The State Secretary said he is very worried that, in spite of commitment to work and continue to work in international tax cooperation, the Netherlands Antilles is still referred as a "tax haven". "There is no widely accepted and transparent definition of what constitutes a 'tax haven'. Additionally, the process of being removed from 'tax haven' lists is ill-defined and protracted," Rosaria stated. According to Rosaria, the OECD should step up to the plate. "OECD should take the lead to not only publicize all jurisdictions that are compliant with their standards, but also convince others (especially

OECD members), not to incorrectly label them as 'tax havens'. Additionally the OECD should develop widely accepted standards in international tax cooperation and methods for assessing whether they are being applied," he said. "Inclusion on a 'tax havens' list further damages the international financial sectors of well-regulated small jurisdictions, consequently undermining their government's ability to provide well-being for their populations. This is not a light matter but one involving our survival," Rosaria concluded.



Netherlands Antilles State Secretary of Finance, Alex Rosaria



Ocean view Westpunt

Brand new beautiful 4BR/2BT home located on the only hill in Westpunt Noord, Called Seroe Pella. Living and dining upstairs with amazing views and sleeping downstairs. You'll also find an extra guesthouse with its own bathroom. Huge pool (50m2) and spectacular ocean view!

\$689.000

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ANNOUCEMENT

Post Aruba N.V. would like to inform all its client that on Friday the 20th of February, all the Post Aruba offices, including the E-Post at Aerocargo will be open from 7:30am until 12:00pm and from 1:00pm until 2:30pm, after 2:30pm all our offices will be closed.

From the Managment and Staff we would like to wish you a safe and happy carnival 2009

Sincerely,
Management

RENAISSANCE
MARKETPLACE
Presents

Soualouiga
Jump
Up
Brass

from St. Maarten

Saturday, February 21st at 8 pm.





Michael Pistillo Jr., left, and Patrick Kenny, both of Barclays Capital, work at their post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

Dow ends at lowest close in more than 6 years

By STEPHEN BERNARD and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK – The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled to its lowest close in more than six years on Thursday as sharp declines in key financial shares led the market lower. The blue chips broke through a psychological barrier established in November to close at their lowest level since Oct. 9, 2002, the last bear market low.

The feeble performance marks a setback for many investors who hoped the Nov. 20 finish would mark the low point of the market's extended decline from its October 2007 highs. The market's inability to rally also signals that investors see no immediate end for the recession, which is already 14 months old and one of the most severe in decades.

The Dow had been threatening to break through the November bottom since Tuesday, when the index tumbled 300 points on worries about the economy and the stability of banks in Eastern Europe. Stocks had barely held the November low on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Thursday, persistent worries about financial and technology stocks weighed on the market, with steep dropoffs in financial bellwethers like Citigroup and Bank of America leading the way downward. Both stocks ended down about 14 percent.

The Dow lost 89.68, or 1.2 percent, to end at 7,465.95. It was the lowest finish since October 2002.

Broader indexes also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended down 9.48, or 1.20 percent, to 778.94, but finished above its Nov. 20 low of 752.44.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index suffered the biggest hit Thursday after Hewlett Packard Co. tumbled 7.9 percent after posting worrisome results. The Nasdaq fell 25.15, or 1.71 percent, to 1,442.82. □



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Starting at 8.30pm

Our gastronomic side

- *Tomato tartare in Roasted Almond milk topped with tomato "Granite" and chive tempura
- *Lump fish caviar on potato with salted cream
- *Pan seared scallop dove in red bell pepper Gazpacho served in shot glass
- *Petit grouper filet pan seared and poached in fish "Fumet" with fresh asparagus cutlet

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FOR RESERVATIONS : 5885695

Buccaneer RESTAURANT

Buccaneer Restaurant is an island tradition for over 25 years that serve creative dishes prepared with a European touch with irresistible secret flavorings which continue to lure guests back, again and again. *Feast on fresh Caribbean catch in one of the cozy booths with a view of an aquarium at each seat, surrounded by tropical splendor and nautical decor. Our second dining room resembles an underwater cave, complete with a 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, unseen elsewhere.* Our friendly staff is here to give you the "Welcome Aboard" feeling and the chef-owner will personally take care of you.

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Aruba TODAY



**Don't drink &
DRIVE**



NOTICE:

Casino chips with old Aruba Marriott Sail Boat Logo can be cashed out at the Casino Cage until July 1, 2009.

No chip exchange is possible after July 1, 2009

Feb. could be worst month yet for jobless claims

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON – February is shaping up to be another brutal month of job losses: The number of laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits hit an all-time high of nearly 5 million, and new jobless claims are at levels not seen since the early 1980s.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of people receiving regular unemployment benefits rose by 170,000 to 4.99 million for the week ending Feb. 7, marking the fourth straight week continuing claims have hit a record.

The surge in joblessness has pushed those claims far above the 2.77 million people getting benefits a year ago. The number totals 6.54 million with the inclusion of an additional 1.5 million people who are getting extended benefits under a program passed by Congress last summer.

And those numbers are sure to climb higher, based on the flood of newly laid-off workers seeking benefits.

The government reported Thursday that new jobless claims for last week totaled 627,000, the same level as the previous week but higher than economists expected. It also was near the recent high of 631,000 hit three weeks ago, which was the most new weekly claims since 1982 when the country was in another severe recession. The three straight weeks of seasonally adjusted claims above 600,000 also is the longest stretch in more than 26 years.

“The labor market is in disarray,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Economy.com. “We are seeing job losses across nearly every industry and every region of the country.”

Based on current trends, net job losses for February could well top 700,000, Zandi said. That would surpass the 598,000 jobs

lost in January, which had been the biggest total since 1974.

Worries about the economy dragged the Dow Jones industrial average down nearly 90 points Thursday to close at 7,465.95, its lowest level in more than six years. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index also fell.

Even with approval of a \$787 billion economic stimulus package this week, economists are warning that any recovery may not take hold until late this year at the earliest, given that the housing market is still deteriorating, the financial market has yet to stabilize and job losses are mounting.

Dennis Lockhart, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, said in a speech Thursday that the economy faces obstacles for the next several quarters that would work against a strong recovery. “Those obstacles include credit markets not yet returned to healthy functioning, a housing market still weighed down by an excess supply of homes for sale and low business and household confidence,” Lockhart said. “None of these is likely to turn

around quickly.”

In other economic news, wholesale inflation surged unexpectedly in January, according to the Labor Department. Wholesale prices jumped 0.8 percent last month, the biggest gain since July and well above the 0.2 percent increase that economists expected.

The acceleration was led by a 3.7 percent surge in energy prices. Gasoline prices jumped 15 percent, the biggest gain in 14 months. Even outside the volatile food and energy sectors, wholesale prices showed a bigger-than-expected increase, rising 0.4 percent.

Meanwhile, the New York-based Conference Board said its January index of leading economic indicators rose 0.4 percent, the second straight monthly gain.

However, economists dismissed the gains in both wholesale prices and economic indicators as temporary blips that did not signal either a problem with inflation or a potential rebound in the economy.

The Conference Board said the single biggest boost to the index was the real money supply. □



Hundreds of job seekers stand on line at a National Career Fairs job fair at the Radisson Martinique On Broadway Hotel Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, as they lined up to get a shot at employment. The Labor Department says new applications for benefits totaled 627,000 last week, the same as the previous week. But that was still more than the 620,000 claims economists expected.

(AP Photo/Craig Ruttle)

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BRISTOL PALIN SPEAKS

By Maggie Gallagher

Is abstinence "realistic"?

According to a rash of headlines, Gov. Sarah Palin's 18-year-old daughter, Bristol Palin, says "no." Thus (the media gleefully report) the young thing repudiates her famous mother's conservative values while speaking to Fox News' Greta Van Susteren.

What Bristol actually said went more like this:

Greta: "Do you have a philosophical or religious opposition to (contraception)?"

Bristol: "No I don't want to get into detail about that -- I think abstinence is, like, the ... I don't know how to put it, like ... the main -- everyone should be abstinent or whatever, but it's not realistic at all."

Greta: "Why?"

Bristol: "Because it's more and more accepted now ... among kids my age."

(Note: I wonder if Bristol really thinks sexual virtue is harder these days than it was, say, 30 years ago when her mom and I were teenagers. That would be circa 1979. I could tell Bristol some stories -- the sexual revolution has been swinging pretty hard for a good long time now.)

Greta ask: "How do you change that?"

Bristol: "To see stories like this, and to see other stories of teen moms. ... You should just wait 10 years; it would be so much easier."

Of course the "not realistic" comment that blared across the headlines was only a stray comment by Bristol in the middle of a long interview. The headline vultures descended upon it because the "A-word" causes so many people to snort, see red and charge into battle against the bare idea that chastity is even a possibility for teens (or anyone else). We all know that sexual passion is difficult to constrain and direct. But there is something strangely dehumanizing about the way so many adults are so eager to insist that sexual self-control is actually impossible.

That, of course, was not Bristol's purpose. She wanted to emerge on national TV as an advocate against teen pregnancy.

"It's so much easier if you're married, and if you have a house and career. ... It's not a situation you want to strive for," the teen mom said.

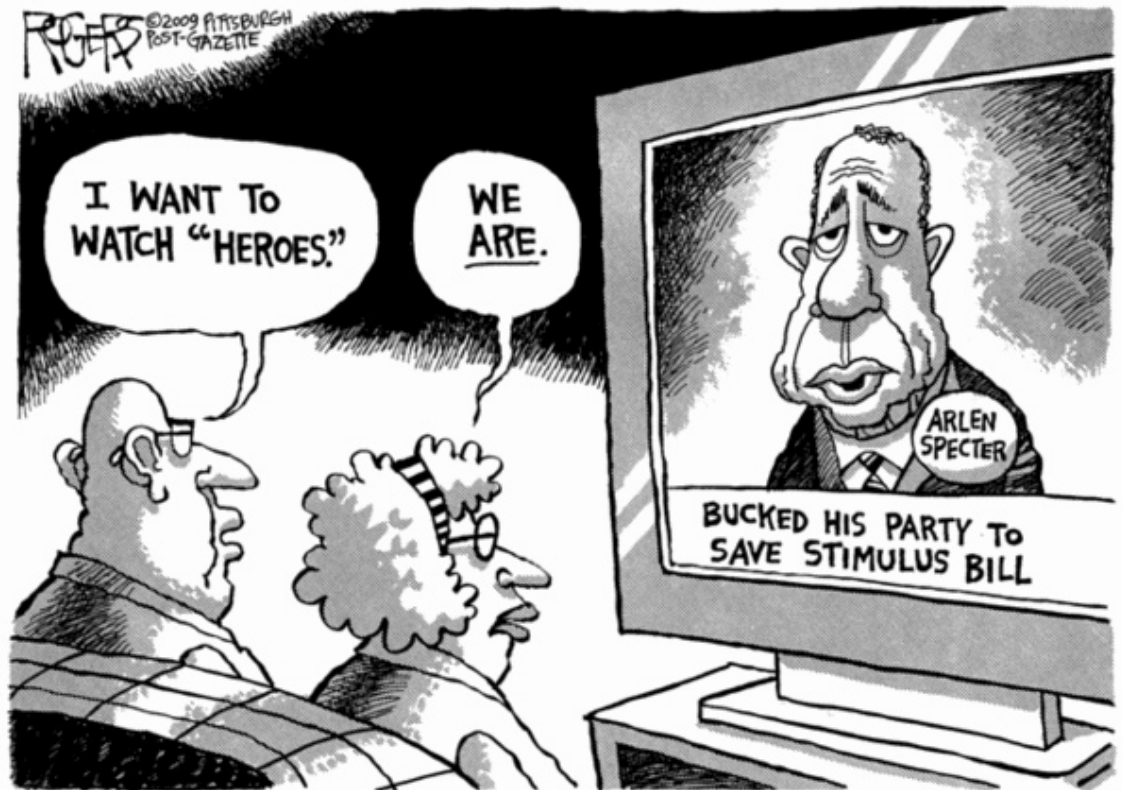
But the headlines and the interview make clear that Bristol, perhaps, did not achieve her goal

For one thing, there's that darn baby looking so cute on TV, and the young mother apparently unfazed by it all.

Then there's her mom, the governor of Alaska, dropping by the TV studio to sing Bristol's praises: Bristol is "a strong and bold young woman, and she's an amazing mom. ... We're very proud of Bristol."

Gov. Palin goes so far as to suggest that, so long as the babies and their young moms are taken care of by families -- "five generations" of Palins are helping Bristol out -- and not by government, then well maybe it's not really anybody's business.

Despite Bristol's best intentions (and I don't doubt her sincerity), it's pretty hard to emerge from the interview asking hard questions about teen motherhood. And the subject of being married -- rather than merely old -- before having a baby doesn't seem to really come up. □



Clinton must press China on rights

By William F. Schulz, Sarah Dreier and Winny Chen

Washington — When Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton touches down in Beijing this week she will face an authoritarian Chinese government wringing their hands over a remarkably brazen online petition for human rights and an end to autocratic rule that is circulating among its citizens.

This petition, Charter 08, is not what China's rulers expect to talk about with Secretary Clinton on her first trip abroad for the new Obama administration. She should insist that they do.

The reason: Charter 08 is the longest sustained human rights campaign in China since the Tiananmen Square massacre 20 years ago this June and continues to spread throughout China despite the government's best attempts.

It was released by Chinese intellectuals, lawyers, and dissidents on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Dec. 10 and has since been signed by over 8,000 ordinary Chinese citizens, who are bravely displaying their names, addresses, and occupations online for all to see, including China's fearsome secret police.

Clinton should capitalize on the momentum created by the charter to promote a responsible human rights agenda. To be sure, much has changed in China since Tiananmen Square.

But, despite progress in realizing social and economic rights and some increases in individual freedoms, China today remains responsible for profound violations of its people's civil and political rights, from restrictions

on free expression and religious freedom to detention without trial, torture, excessive use of the death penalty, involuntary resettlement, and forced abortions. In its foreign policy, China often backs repressive regimes around the world, including Sudan and Myanmar (Burma), and waters down international sanctions against them.

America and China's interrelated responsibilities to address climate change are expected to dominate Clinton's conversations with the Chinese. Cutting greenhouse-gas emissions is critical to our bilateral relations and to the health and prosperity of the planet. But China is unlikely to meet its environmental obligations without the accountability provided by democracy and human rights.

In addition to the Tiananmen anniversary, 2009 is also a year of multiple significant political anniversaries as well as the year for China's evaluation under the UN Universal Periodic Review. In fact, the Human Rights Council and several UN member states have called on China to extend to its citizens — especially ethnic minorities, journalists, and human rights defenders — full access to human rights.

In anticipation, the Chinese government has already intensified security. Strong crackdowns against protesters in Tibet have been under way since January. Authors of Charter 08 have been harassed and detained. Beijing police barred organizers of the "20 Year Anniversary of China/Avant-Garde Exhibition" from hosting events, and other Tiananmen-related crackdowns are likely to continue in the coming months as the government

attempts to avoid Tiananmen-related "embarrassment."

The Obama administration should not allow these anniversaries — and the human rights values they represent — to go forgotten. Not only does the United States have a moral obligation to confront human rights issues in China, but it is in the best strategic interests of the US to do so. Given the high degree of interdependence between the US and Chinese economies and China's growing military reach, American interests are best served by a stable China with a robust commitment to the rule of law. Those conditions are undermined by a failure to respect human rights.

Recalling her groundbreaking pronouncement as first lady at the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference that "Women's rights are human rights," Clinton should take similar advantage of this week's discussions to persuade China that it will not be able to address these pressing issues successfully if it ignores human rights. The secretary must stress that greater democracy and human rights will be integral to China if it is to be the highly respected global leader it aspires to be.

No one is better placed than Clinton with her international reputation for hard-headedness and high ideals to help China make the connection between greater freedom and respect for the rule of law and more effective government and less civil unrest. Her message should be straightforward: It's a new day in America and can be a new day in US-China relations, but bilateral relations will never be fully harmonious without real progress on human rights. □

Food poisoning strikes 1 in 4 Americans each year

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — Next time you have a case of diarrhea that lasts a day or more, chances are better than 1 in 3 that it was food poisoning. As many as a quarter of Americans suffer a foodborne illness each year — though only a fraction of those cases get linked to high-profile outbreaks like the recent salmonella-peanut scare, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Outbreaks are dramatic instances,” says Dr. Robert Tauxe, a CDC expert on the subject. But they highlight a health threat that many people exaggerate and misunderstand, according to some experts.

Scientists have counted more than 250 food-related types of illness — from viruses to bacteria to parasites. Most common are Norwalk-like viruses — famous for sickening cruise-ship passengers. They account for about two-thirds of known food-poisoning cases, according to the CDC.

Two types of bacteria, campylobacter and salmonella,

are the next most common. Campylobacter is blamed for about 14 percent of food poisonings, salmonella for roughly 10 percent.

The exact toll of these and other bugs is not really known.

Ten years ago, a team of CDC scientists put together the best enduring estimate of how many Americans get food poisoning each year: 76 million illnesses, which resulted in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths.

No more recent figures are available. But the current numbers must be close to 87 million cases, 371,000 hospitalizations and 5,700 deaths, according to an Associated Press calculation that used the CDC formula and current population estimates.

The statistics seem even more alarming in the context of a parade of high-profile food-poisoning outbreaks in recent years: salmonella poisoning linked to hot peppers and tomatoes from Mexico that sickened more 1,400 last year; an E. coli outbreak from bagged spinach in 2006; and even

deadly cases of hepatitis A from green onions in 2003.

The recent peanut-related salmonella outbreak has caused more than 640 confirmed illnesses in 44 states and been linked to nine deaths. It was traced to a Virginia-based company, Peanut Corp. of America, which makes minor-label peanut butter, peanut paste and other products.

Those numbers just scratch the surface: A case is confirmed only after a lab test is sent to the CDC. Many sick people just soldier on without even seeing a doctor.

Health officials assume that for every salmonella case, there are three dozen unreported cases. By that calculation, the latest peanut-related outbreak actually has sickened closer to 20,000 people.

But the problem could be a lot worse.

The number of confirmed food poisonings has basically held steady in recent years. It may seem worse because more advanced testing allows investigators to better link cases and identify outbreaks, CDC

officials said.

Also, despite sometimes dramatic problems in food production and inspections, the U.S. food supply is still considered one of the safest in the world, several experts said. Food poisoning affects an estimated 25 percent of Americans every year. That compares with roughly 30 percent of people in industrialized countries, according to the World Health Organization. The toll, of course, is much higher in developing countries, where diarrheal diseases are a major cause of death for children.

But not all of our food comes from within our borders, as demonstrated by last summer's vegetable-caused outbreak.

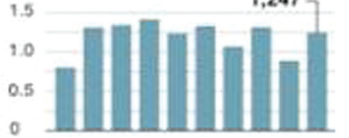
“I usually say it is one of the safest in the world,” said Tauxe, when asked about the U.S. food supply. “But increasingly, our food supply is the world.”

Patients suffering gastric distress sometimes assume food poisoning, partly because of all the outbreak news and partly because it's human nature, some doctors said. “I think a lot of people in general say, ‘I have

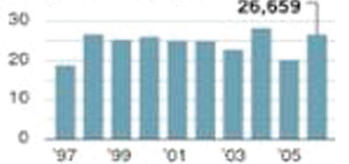
Food poisoning

The number of confirmed food poisonings has held steady in recent years. It's estimated that 87 million people get food poisoning each year.

Outbreaks of foodborne illness, in thousands



Suspected and confirmed cases, in thousands



NOTE: CDC officials believe many cases of foodborne illness are unreported each year

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP

Chart shows outbreaks of food poisoning and suspected and confirmed cases

symptoms. I must have eaten something that's caused this,” said Dr. Andi Shane, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Atlanta's Emory University. Patients may not consider an infection came from some other means, like handling a contaminated tissue, she said □



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Movie dubber dies, was 'voice' of Woody Allen



In this July 24, 1998 file photo, Oreste Lionello holds a sculpture made by Canadian artist Cutrone symbolizing silence in front of a poster for David Lynch's 'Lost Highway' in Rome. Lionello, a cabaret entertainer and film dubber who was Italy's 'voice' of Woody Allen, Peter Sellers and other comic stars, died in a Rome hospital Thursday. He was 81.

(AP Photo/Corrado Giambalvo, File)

ROME — Oreste Lionello, an entertainer and film dubber who was Italy's "voice" of Woody Allen, Jerry Lewis and other comic stars, died in a Rome hospital Thursday.

Lionello, 81, was a star in Italy's important entertainment industry of movie dubbing.

Relatively few Italian cinemas show films in the original language, so moviegoers often only know the voices of Hollywood stars through dubbers like Lionello.

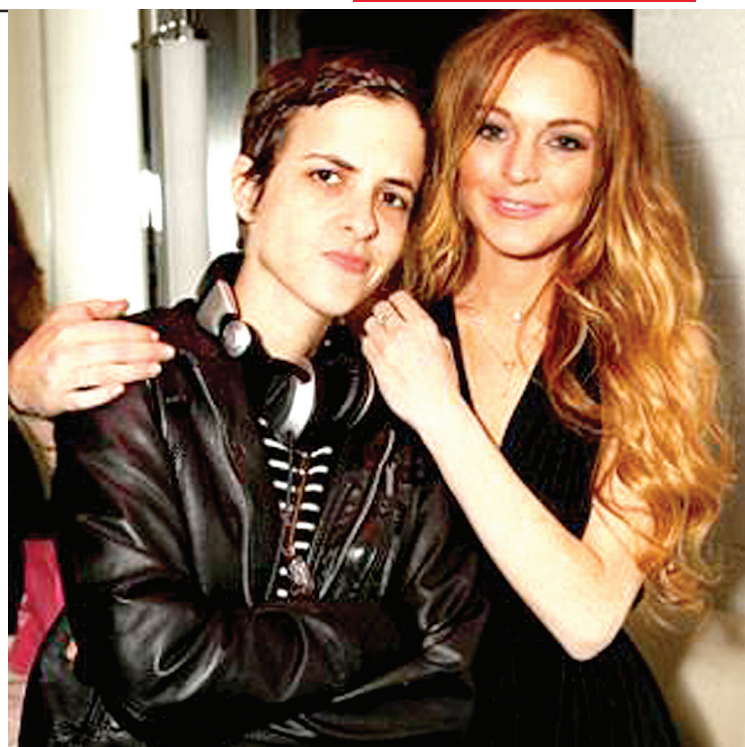
Italian actor and director Pier Francesco Pingitore, who did cabaret acts with Lionello, said the dubber died Thursday morning after a long illness. No details were released about the illness.

Besides Allen and Lewis, other actors who were dubbed by Lionello included Peter Sellers, Marty Feldman and Charlie Chaplin in "The Great Dictator."

Lionello on occasion answered his phone by saying, "I am the voice of Woody Allen." For those who had seen Allen's films only in Italian, hearing the real voice of Woody Allen could be jarring. Lionello's dubbing captured all of the neuroses and sarcastic tones in Allen's speech.

Early in his career in entertainment, Lionello worked in theater as a comic actor and in cabaret, where he was noted for his imitations of veteran Italian politician Giulio Andreotti. Lionello also worked successfully as an entertainer on Italian TV in the 1970s and 1980s. But it was in dubbing that he earned his greatest fame.

While in other European countries, subtitled versions of foreign films in original language are usually available, most of the hundreds of movies imported into Italy each year are dubbed. □



Lindsay Lohan Eyes New Bed for Samantha Ronson

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Here's something that might finally put all those breakup rumors surrounding Lindsay Lohan and Samantha Ronson to, well, rest.

A source tells E! News that while Linds was at the Silver Spoon Oscar Lounge in L.A. on Wednesday, the actress expressed interest in a mattress giveaway and was overheard saying, "Oh, Sam needs a new bed."

"She seemed more in love than ever before," says our source. "No trouble at home."

Perhaps. But then again, that wasn't exactly Sam who Linds was spotted out with just a few hours later...

Rather, she was seen partying it up with singer Lily Allen at the Chateau Marmont in Hollywood, where they hung out until about two in the morning before taking off and heading to a tattoo parlor.

While it's not known for sure if Linds herself got inked, Lily definitely did, showing off her new, Rihanna-inspired "Shhh..." tattoo on Twitter.

As for Sam, if she was at home losing any sleep, we certainly hope it wasn't due to the fact that Linds was having a good time without her, but simply because she really does need that new mattress. □



Obscure Tolkien book to come out this spring

An early, long-unpublished work by J.R.R. Tolkien is coming out.

"The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun," a thorough reworking in verse of old Norse epics that predates Tolkien's writing of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, will be published in May by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. According to Houghton, the book will include an introduction by Tolkien and notes by his son, Christopher Tolkien. J.R.R. Tolkien, whose fantasy novels have sold millions of copies, died in 1973. "The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun" was written in the 1920s and '30s, when the author was teaching at Oxford University. □

In this 1967 file photo, author J.R.R. Tolkien is shown. An early, long-unpublished work by J.R.R. Tolkien is coming out this spring. 'The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrun,' a thorough reworking in verse of old Norse epics that predates Tolkien's writing of 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings,' will be published in May by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

(AP Photo, file)

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In Canada, Obama treads lightly on trade, war

By BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

OTTAWA (AP) — President Barack Obama stepped cautiously in his first foreign trip Thursday, refraining from asking Canada to rethink its plans to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and saying changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement can wait.

In a news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Obama acknowledged that he has said NAFTA does too little to protect U.S. workers and the environment. Canada, the United State's largest trading partner, is leery of changes to the deal.

Robust trade helps both nations, Obama said. Noting that NAFTA has side agreements on labor and the environment, he added: "If those side agreements mean anything, then they might as well be incorporated into the main body of the agreements so that they can be effectively enforced." He said he hopes there eventually will be a way to do so "that is not disruptive to the extraordinarily important trade relationships" between the two nations.

Both leaders said that as economies around the world face challenges, it's important for the U.S. and others to resist calls for protectionism.

Harper at one point appeared to lecture the U.S. president over the "Buy American" clause wrapped into the giant economic stimulus bill Obama signed Tuesday.

It requires that U.S. iron, steel and other manufactured goods be used for public buildings and other public projects paid for under the bill.

Continued on Next Page



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper laughs as he talks with President Barack Obama while walking through the halls of Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Thursday Feb. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

APNewsBreak:



Embattled U.S. Sen. Roland Burris, D-Ill. speaks at the City Club of Chicago, Public Policy Forum, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Black pastors to ask Burris to step down

See Page B4

Lieberman endorses Netanyahu for Israeli premier

By STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu won the endorsement Thursday of an anti-Arab politician who emerged from Israel's election as a kingmaker, virtually ensuring that the hawkish, U.S.-educated politician will once again become prime minister.

The big question is whether Netanyahu will be able to build the broad coalition he will likely need to stay in power and avoid clashing with the Obama administration and much of the world.

With his top rival, centrist Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, signaling that she would enter the opposition, Netanyahu's prospects for such a coalition do not look good. He will probably have little choice but to forge a coalition with nationalist and religious parties opposed to peacemaking with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors.

One major Orthodox Jewish party, Shas, also threw its support to Netanyahu, joining a group of similar movements that did the same.

"Today the foundations were laid for an extremist right-wing government under the leadership of Netanyahu," Livni said in a text message to 80,000 members of her Kadima Party. "That is not our way and there is nothing for us in such a government... We must be an alternative of hope and go into opposition."

If Livni stays out of Netanyahu's government, it would



Israel's Yisrael Beiteinu party leader Avigdor Lieberman is seen before giving a speech at the 'Conference of Presidents' in Jerusalem, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. Far-right Israeli politician Lieberman endorsed Benjamin Netanyahu for prime minister on Thursday, all but guaranteeing that Netanyahu will be the country's next leader.

Associated Press

almost surely hurt Netanyahu's credibility with the United States and Europe. And his hold on power would be more tenuous in a narrow coalition of rightists, with hard-line allies threatening to bring down his government in the face of any concession for peace.

Continued on Page B8



President Barack Obama waves to the media as he and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper conclude their a joint news conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada, Thursday Feb. 19, 2009.

Associated Press

IN CANADA

Continued from Front Page

The final language makes clear, however, that the policy must not violate U.S. obligations under existing international trade agreements, including NAFTA.

Obama reiterated that on Thursday, noting that "I provided Prime Minister Harper an assurance that I want to grow trade and not contract it."

Still, the bill has alarmed U.S. trading partners including Canada, who warn that favoring U.S. companies would breach Washington's free trade commitments and could set off a retaliatory trade war.

"If we pursue stimulus packages, the goal of which is only to benefit ourselves, or to benefit ourselves, worse, at the expense of others, we will deepen the world recession,

not solve it," Harper said during the news conference. "We know, as a small economy, we can't recover without recovery in the United States and recovery around the world.

But that's true for all of us these days," he added.

In Afghanistan, Canada plans to pull its 2,500 combat troops from the volatile south in 2011, following the loss of more than 100 troops killed in the country since 2001. Obama is headed the other direction, dispatching 17,000 more U.S. troops to the war zone.

Obama said Thursday he did not press Harper to reconsider. He said he praised Canada for its sacrifices and for making Afghanistan its largest recipient of foreign aid.

Harper and Obama also announced an agreement to begin a clean-energy dialogue. Obama said it will "advance carbon-reduction technologies," which could slow global warming. He said it also will "support the development of an electric grid that can help deliver the clean and renewable energy

of the future to homes and businesses" in both countries. Harper said he was pleased that Canada now has a North American partner to help provide leadership on climate change.

Turning to U.S.-Canada border security and the fight against terrorism, Harper said any threat to the United States is a threat to his country, too.

The prime minister said Canada has made "significant investments" in security and in border protection since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States.

But he said there's a "real challenge" in increasing border security in a way that doesn't limit commerce and social interaction.

Obama said he believes the ties between Canada and the United States will grow even stronger over the next four years.

The men took questions from two Canadian reporters and two U.S. reporters in a room adorned with numerous flags of the two nations.

Harper, alternating between English and French, said

Obama's election "launches a new chapter in the rich history of Canada-U.S. relations."

Obama returned the warm words, saying he has top aides and a brother-in-law from Canada. "I love this country and think that we could not have a better friend and ally," he said.

Obama later made a surprise visit to a downtown market in Ottawa, leaving fellow customers stunned and delighting onlookers by shopping for gifts for his family.

After his stop at the market, Obama met with Canada's opposition leader, Michael Ignatieff. Before heading back to Washington, the president thanked U.S. Embassy workers who had gathered in an airport hangar, telling them they are his ambassadors here.

He said he had chosen Canada for his first international trip to underscore the relationship between the two countries, and he talked about similarities.

"As I was wandering around, I thought I might be in Chicago. The weather's the same," he said. □

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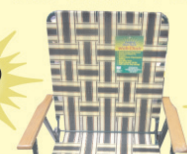
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FBI tracks down Texas financier in fraud case

By DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Texas financier R. Allen Stanford was tracked down Thursday in Virginia, where FBI agents served him with legal papers in a multibillion-dollar fraud case.

FBI agents, acting at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission, served Stanford court orders and other documents, the FBI and the SEC said.

Stanford is not under arrest and is not in custody.

In a civil complaint Tuesday, the SEC accused Stanford, two other executives and three of his companies with committing an \$8 billion fraud that lured investors with promises of improbable and unsubstantiated high returns on certificates of deposit and other investments. It's not clear how much of the \$8 billion was lost and how much investors might recover.

Until regulators got help Thursday from the FBI, the SEC had not been able to find Stanford.

A law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the billionaire was served Thursday afternoon by an agent who had staked out a location in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Around 1:45 p.m. (1845 GMT), the agent spotted Stanford in a car driven by Stanford's girlfriend. The agent spoke to Stanford, who was riding in the passenger side, the official said. The agent handed Stanford the SEC complaint, a federal court order freezing Stanford's assets and another order naming a receiver.

Stanford told the agent he understood and would make arrangements to surrender his passport, the official said.

Stanford has not been charged with any crime, though federal agents continue to investigate the case. The fallout from the fraud case is already rattling around the global financial system. Venezuela on Thursday seized a failed bank controlled by Stanford after a run on deposits there, while clients were prevented

from withdrawing their money from Stanford International Bank and its affiliates in a half-dozen other countries.

Stanford's father, James, 81, told The Associated Press in Mexia, Texas, on Thursday that he hopes the allegations aren't true. "I have no earthly knowledge of it," said the elder Stanford, listed as chairman emeritus and a director for Stanford Financial Group. "I would be totally surprised if there would be truth to it. And disappointed, heartbroken."

He said he would tell his son to "Do the right thing."

Stanford, 58, is a larger-than-life figure in the Caribbean, using his personal fortune — estimated at \$2.2 billion by Forbes magazine — to bankroll public works and cricket tournaments.

He also is a major player in U.S. politics, personally donating nearly a million dollars, mostly to Democrats. At 6-feet-4 (nearly 2 meters) and 240 pounds (109 kilograms), he towered over House Speaker Nancy Pelosi while giving her a warm hug

at the Democratic National Convention last year.

He owns a home in the U.S. Virgin Islands and operates businesses from Houston to Miami and Switzerland to Antigua, where he holds citizenship and the government knighted him in 2006 in recognition of his economic influence and charity work.

In an e-mail to his employees last week, Stanford said his company was cooperating with the probe and vowed to "fight with every breath to continue to uphold our good name and continue the legacy we have built together."

A federal judge appointed a receiver to identify and protect Stanford's assets worldwide, including about \$8 billion managed by the Antigua-based Stanford International Bank, which has affiliates in Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Also frozen were assets of Houston-based Stanford Capital Management and Stanford Group Co., which has 29 brokerage offices around the U.S. □



James Stanford, father of Chairman of Stanford Financial Group Sir Allen Stanford, talks about the SEC's accusations against his son in an interview, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009 in Mexia, Texas, . Texas financier R. Allen Stanford was tracked down Thursday in Virginia, where FBI agents served him with legal papers in a multibillion-dollar fraud case.

Associated Press

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Black pastors to ask Burris to step down



In this Feb. 16, 2009, file photo Roland Burris meets with Democratic party supporters in Peoria, Ill., where he changes his story and tells reporters that he had reached out to friends after Blagojevich's brother, Robert, called him before President Obama's election asking him to raise \$10,000 or \$15,000 for the governor. "So sometime shortly after Obama was elected, the brother called and in the meantime I had talked to some people about trying to see if we could put a fundraiser on," Burris said.

Associated Press

By **TAMMY WEBBER**
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — A group of black ministers who supported U.S. Sen. Roland Burris as he fought to get his job now plan to ask for his resignation

following revelations that he tried to raise money for the disgraced governor who appointed him, one of the ministers told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Many of the city's influential

black pastors supported Burris because of his scandal-free reputation — even though he was appointed by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich three weeks after the governor was arrested for allegedly trying to sell the Senate seat.

Now some of those pastors will ask Burris to resign, according to the minister, who spoke on condition of anonymity because a meeting with Burris had not yet been scheduled.

Clergy **Speaks** Interdenominational, an umbrella group that includes hundreds of Chicago's black churches, will meet Friday to discuss its support for Burris, spokeswoman Stephanie Gadlin said. For now, the group still supports him and its leaders are unaware of discussions about asking him to resign, she said.

Burris spokesman Jim O'Connor would not say whether the senator would meet with ministers, and referred to a statement from Burris asking that leaders

"stop the rush to judgment." Burris testified before the Illinois House committee that recommended Blagojevich's impeachment in January that he hadn't had contact with key Blagojevich staffers or offered anything in return for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama. Last weekend, however, Burris released an affidavit saying he had spoken to several Blagojevich advisers, including Robert Blagojevich, the former governor's brother and finance chairman, who Burris said called three times last fall asking for fundraising help. Burris, a former state attorney general, changed his story again this week when he admitted trying, unsuccessfully, to raise money for Blagojevich.

Illinois lawmakers have asked local prosecutors to look into perjury charges, and a preliminary U.S. Senate Ethics Committee inquiry is under way. Burris denies lying under oath and has resisted a growing chorus of calls for his resignation, including from within his own party. Burris is, like Obama was, the only black U.S. senator. Blacks were among his biggest defenders as Burris overcame Senate leaders' resistance to admitting a senator appointed by a man charged with trying to sell the office.

Current sentiment in the black community is not unanimous, but the clergy's

silence as the maelstrom of criticism swells around Burris "speaks volumes," said another minister, Ira Acree, of the Greater St. John Bible Church.

"I'm a little disturbed, but because of his track record, don't want to rush to judgment," Acree said Thursday. "But neither will I attempt to defend his actions."

Burris' latest revelations are "making the black community just as suspicious of him as anyone else," said the Rev. Leonard Barr of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. But Burris deserves a chance to defend himself and should not step down, he said.

"I think he can do the job," Barr said. "He would be a good senator and a conscientious senator."

People who have supported Burris are torn between feelings of anger and betrayal and a desire to keep the only black senator in the country, said Laura S. Washington, a politics professor at DePaul University and columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times.

"They're disappointed, embarrassed and worried that the seat will be in jeopardy," Washington said.

Edward Bogan, a 58-year-old printer from Chicago, said he doesn't buy Burris' explanation for not telling the House impeachment committee about all his contacts with the Blagojevich administration. □



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At Moomba Beach	9 AM - 1 PM & 4 PM - 8 PM
The Mill Minimarket at The Mill Resort	
The Coconut Trading Co.	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
At Marriott Ocean Club	9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
T.H. Palm & Company at Playa Linda	

Monday, February 23rd

The Juggling Fish	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
At Playa Linda on the Beach Side	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
At Divi Tamarijn	9 AM - 1 PM & 2 PM - 6 PM
At Aruba Beach Club	
The Lazy Lizard	9:00 AM - 10:00 PM
At South Beach Mall	8:30 AM - 8:00 PM
At Moomba Beach	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
The Mill Minimarket at The Mill Resort	
The Coconut Trading Co.	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
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Teen arrested in 9 arsons in fire-ravaged Pa. town

By **MARYCLAIRE DALE**
Associated Press Writer
COATESVILLE, Pa. — A 19-year-old described as a pyromaniac who liked to watch things burn was charged Thursday with setting nine fires in an arson-plagued steel town, including a block-long blaze that displaced dozens of people last month.

Roger Leon Barlow Jr., an automotive technical student from nearby Downingtown, was charged with arson, aggravated assault and related counts. He was arraigned Thursday afternoon and bail was set at \$9 million.

Chester County District Attorney Joseph Carroll, who lives in Coatesville, said he does not believe the fires were gang-related, hate crimes or targeted at specific individuals. Carroll called Barlow a pyromaniac, but declined to disclose evidence to support it, other than to say that Barlow enjoyed watching fires.

Coatesville, about 35 miles west of Philadelphia, has tallied 18 arsons this year and 26 last year, one of them fatal. In December, authorities arrested three people believed to have been responsible for some of the arsons, including the early December blaze that killed an 83-year-old woman.

The fires, however, continued and many of the city's approximately 11,000 residents said they were afraid to go to bed at night for fear another blaze would be set.

On Thursday, several residents interrupted a City Hall news conference about the arrest with applause. City Councilman Kurt Schenk said he was elated.

"It's just evil — pure evil — as far as I can see, anybody who would want to hurt somebody like that," Schenk said.

Staff at the Downingtown district court where Barlow was arraigned said he did not have an attorney.

Barlow, a high school graduate,

lives with his parents. His father, Roger, declined to comment when reached by phone Thursday afternoon.

The teen told investigators Wednesday that he set nine fires since Jan. 2, according to a police affidavit. One of them tore through 15 row homes on a single block, displacing about 50 residents and causing an estimated \$1.2 million in damage.

With a suspect under arrest, Carroll said residents should be able to sleep easier, "although I'm not convinced this is the only person involved."

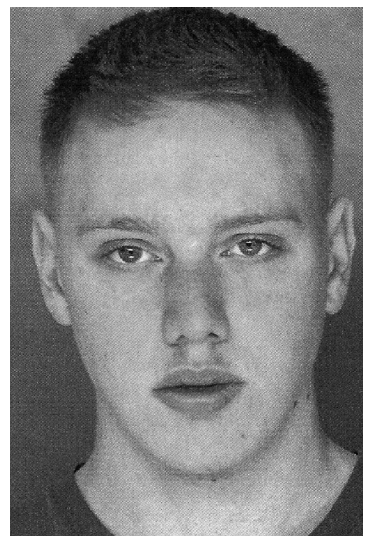
Barlow set his last fire on Feb. 3, but the last identified arson in the area was Feb. 6 at a trailer home in nearby East Fallowfield Township, Carroll said. Besides the 18 fires in Coatesville this year, there have been at least five outside the city limits.

An arson task force focused on Barlow after police stopped his vehicle during elevated patrols, said Mark Potter,

special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Investigators asked Barlow what he was doing in town. Based on his reaction — and a later glance at his MySpace page, which includes a box showing animated flames — officers knew they wanted to talk to him further, Potter said. Arsonists are typically motivated by thrill-seeking, revenge or hate, Potter said.

"Roger Barlow's dangerous and risky behavior for the past 48 days, and maybe longer, has now been stopped," he said.

With Barlow in custody, investigators said they will take a new look at the other unsolved arsons and determine if he had a role in them. □



In this undated photo released by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Roger Leon Barlow Jr., 19, is seen. Barlow was charged Thursday Feb. 19, 2009, with setting at least seven fires in an arson-plagued steel town, Coatesville, Pa., including a block-long blaze that displaced dozens of people in January.

Associated Press

Arizona 9-year-old pleads guilty in shooting death

By **FELICIA FONSECA**
Associated Press Writer
ST. JOHNS, Ariz. — A 9-year-old boy accused of methodically shooting his father and his father's roommate to death last fall pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of negligent homicide, settling the case that shocked and mystified the nation.

Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty in the death of the roommate and charges of premeditated murder for both deaths were dropped. Police said the boy used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot the men as they returned home from work Nov. 5.

The boy's plea spares the rural community of about 4,000 from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult. He was polite in court and was never asked to explain any motive for the killings. The boy has not yet been sentenced. He could be sent to the county juvenile system, which would keep him close to his relatives. □

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Mexico: flow of migrants falls by more than half



Off-roaders ride along the newly built U.S.-Mexico border fence in Imperial Sand Dunes, Calif. Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009. Up to 150,000 off-road vehicle enthusiasts ride in the area on holiday weekends who, until late last year, could easily roam onto Mexican sands. Amid mounting violence, the Border Patrol erected the fence that slices through the dunes.

Associated Press

By MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Net migration from Mexico, mainly to the United States, plunged by more than 50 percent in late

2008 compared to a year earlier as fewer Mexicans left their country in search of work, the government said Thursday. Mexican officials attributed the sharp drop to tough

economic conditions abroad amid a global crisis causing Mexicans to stay at home, rather than Mexicans in other countries returning to their homeland.

“There is declining tendency of people going abroad, but we have not detected, up to now, any increase in people returning to the country,” said the Eduardo Sojo, president of Mexico’s National Statistics, Geography and Information Institute.

Sojo said the net outflow of Mexicans — either legally or illegally — was 455,000 between August 2006 and August 2007, the figure dropped to 204,000 people between August 2007 and the same month of 2008. While the number of returning Mexicans stayed

largely the same — 478,000 in the 2007 period as compared to about 450,000 by late 2008 — the number leaving fell from 933,000 to 654,000.

The figures are estimates based on quarterly surveys of Mexican households carried out by the institute. Sojo said a recent survey also indicates that the number of Mexicans planning to migrate in the future is also dropping.

“We have a sort of ‘leading indicator’ regarding any new migration. This indicator has also been declining,” Sojo told an immigration forum.

Sojo said a government survey also shows the number of households in Mexico that receive remittances — the money

sent home by Mexicans working abroad — has also fallen, from 1.41 million in 2005 to 1.16 million in 2008.

Remittances, Mexico’s second-largest source of foreign income after oil, plunged 3.6 percent to \$25 billion in 2008 compared to \$26 billion for the previous year, according to the country’s central bank.

A U.S. crackdown on illegal immigration is believed to have played a role in reducing the number of Mexicans who look for work abroad, almost all in the United States. The U.S. recession and especially the downturn in the construction sector has reduced the amount of work available for Mexican migrants in the United States. □



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PG-13 HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU
daily: 3:55 6:40 9:15 11:55
matinee: 1:10 late show:

PG THE PINK PANTHER 2
daily: 4:05 6:20 8:20 10:20
matinee: 12:00 2:05 late show: 12:25

R UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS
daily: 3:50 5:50 7:55 10:00
matinee: 11:55 1:50 late show: 12:00

PG HOTEL FOR DOGS
daily: 5:30 7:50 10:10 12:10
matinee: 12:50 3:10 late show:

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG PAUL BLART: MALL COP
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PG THE PINK PANTHER 2
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Kyrgyz parliament approves key U.S. air base closure

By LEILA SARALAYEVA
Associated Press Writer
BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted to close a key U.S. air base in the country — a move that could hamper President Barack Obama's efforts to increase the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Deputies voted 78-1 Thursday with two abstentions for the government-backed bill to cancel the lease agreement on the Manas air base, a transit point for 15,000 troops and 500 tons of cargo each month to and from Afghanistan. The move follows Russia's offer of \$2.15 billion in aid and loans to the impoverished Central Asian country. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, in Poland for NATO talks, said the United States would consider paying more rent to continue using the strategic base. Speaking after the parliament vote in Kyrgyzstan, Gates said he considers talks still open over the future of the base. Russia has denied pushing Kyrgyzstan to shut the base, but U.S. officials were skeptical. "I think that the Russians are trying to have it both ways with respect to Afghanistan in terms of Manas," Gates said.

"On one hand you're making positive noises about working with us in Afghanistan and on the other hand you're working against us in terms of that airfield, which is clearly important to us." Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev — who announced the planned eviction and whose government introduced the legislation — is expected to sign the bill in the coming weeks. Once Kyrgyz authorities issue an eviction notice, the United States will have 180 days to leave the base. Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said the U.S. has "yet to receive any formal notification of a change in status of Manas so our operations there continue as normal." "A stable, peaceful Afghanistan is in everyone's interest, including the Kyrgyz people, and Manas is instrumental to our efforts to make that a reality," he said. "However, the base is not irreplaceable and we have alternatives should they be needed."



Kyrgyzstan's lawmakers listen in parliament in Bishkek, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted Thursday to close a key U.S. air base in the country - a move that could hamper President Barack Obama's efforts to increase the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Associated Press



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Cocaine smuggling soars through West Africa



Hooded Mexican navy sailors stand next to packages of cocaine seized at the navy port of Salina Cruz, Mexico Monday, Feb. 16, 2009. The Mexican navy says it has seized 7.7 tons of cocaine from an unspecified kind of boat and detained five Mexican citizens onboard.

Associated Press

By VERONIKA OLEKSYN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — Cocaine smuggling to Europe is dramatically increasing through West Africa, posing a substantial threat to the stability of a region already troubled by war and poverty, an international watchdog warned Thursday.

The independent International

NETANYAHU

Continued from Front Page

Livni seeks a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians, a position supported by the Obama administration, while Netanyahu's partner on the right, Avigdor Lieberman, has drawn opprobrium with his call for Israel's 1 million Arabs to swear allegiance to the Jewish state or lose their citizenship.

One reason that a rightist government could be unstable is that Lieberman's secular agenda puts him squarely at odds with religious parties like Shas, clouding prospects.

Also Thursday, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., traveled to the Gaza Strip, the highest-level visit by a U.S. official since the Hamas militant group seized power in the territory nearly two years ago. He did not meet with anyone from Hamas, which the U.S. shuns as a terrorist group, and used the visit to urge the group to end its violence against Israel. Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel is Our Home) Party finished third in the Feb. 10 election, after Kadima and

Narcotics Control Board called on the U.N. and other donors to provide money and expertise to help fight smuggling, particularly in West African countries like Guinea-Bissau.

"(If European nations want) to stop the cocaine coming to them, it is in their interest to help the West African countries," said Jonathan

Netanyahu's Likud Party. That essentially allowed him to determine whether Netanyahu or Livni would be able to muster the backing of a majority in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament.

Lieberman's stance toward Arabs has exposed him to charges of racism, and many see him as a far-right extremist. However, he is opposed to the Orthodox Jewish establishment's control over key aspects of public life in Israel, one of several positions that has enabled him to find common ground with moderates.

While announcing support for Netanyahu, Lieberman said he preferred a national unity government that included Livni over a narrow coalition of right wingers.

"We need a wide government with the three big parties, Likud, Kadima and Yisrael Beiteinu," Lieberman said. "Netanyahu will lead the government but it will be a government of Netanyahu and Livni together."

Israel's ceremonial president, Shimon Peres, held talks with political parties before

Lucas, the head of U.N. drug control efforts in southern Africa, who backed spending for training and equipment to help African police, judges and customs agents fight trafficking.

South Africa, the continent's economic hub, also faces the risk of traffickers looking for markets and places to launder drug money, Lucas said.

In its annual report for 2008, the Vienna-based group also said criminal groups were setting up fake companies in developing countries, especially Africa, to obtain chemicals they need to make drugs. Traffickers then reroute the chemicals for processing into drugs elsewhere, notably in the Americas.

Mexico's powerful drug cartels were largely responsible for the fake firms in Africa, according to Rossen Popov, a U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime expert at the report's launch in Vienna.

"It's the weakness of the local governments," he explained

choosing a candidate to form a government. Peres is scheduled to meet separately Friday with Netanyahu and Livni, and is likely to make his choice over the weekend, the daily newspaper Haaretz reported. If he names Netanyahu, as seems likely, then Netanyahu will have six weeks to create a coalition.

Israeli Army Radio reported Thursday night that if tasked by Peres, Netanyahu would immediately invite Livni and Labor leader Ehud Barak to join him in government.

"In light of the great challenges which Israel faces — Iran, terrorism, the economic crisis and job losses — a national unity government is the order of the hour," the station's Web site quoted him as saying.

Netanyahu aides could not be reached for comment.

Barak, himself a former premier, has already said he will take the center-left Labor into opposition.

Livni has said she will not join Netanyahu unless she can be an equal partner, presumably through the sort of "rotation" agreement Israel has tried in the past in which an election's

Traffickers are taking advantage of lax controls to legally import substances needed to produce amphetamine-type stimulants such as methamphetamine and ecstasy.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Togo were among those most targeted by traffickers in Africa over the past two years.

In Ethiopia alone, authorities recently seized 12.5 tons of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine ordered using false licenses, it said. Ten tons of a drug used to make methamphetamine was also found recently in Kinshasa, Congo.

To fight the problem, the report called on countries exporting ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to Africa to "verify the legitimacy" of all shipments and urged African nations to boost their controls. The report also noted a significant increase in imports of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine in some

South American countries, apparently to meet the needs of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in Mexico and elsewhere.

It also warned that a lack of security in Afghanistan was severely hampering efforts to tackle the country's drug problem. Despite shrinking opium cultivation areas, Afghanistan still produces more than 90 percent of the world's illicit opium, the report said.

The board also cautioned that drug traffickers are increasingly using courier services to smuggle narcotics. It also found evidence that cough syrups containing narcotic drugs such as codeine are being abused around the world, mainly by young people. Iran estimates that 100,000 people abuse cough syrup containing codeine. In Bangladesh, 4.3 percent of patients seeking drug treatment in 2007 indicated they were addicted to codeine cough syrups, the report said. □



top two winners each get to be prime minister for two years. Both Netanyahu and Lieberman — buoyed by the clear majority for the hawkish parties — have ruled out a rotation.

It's also unlikely the hard-liners would agree to Livni's key demand for pressing ahead with peace talks with the Palestinians and Syria. All this will pressure Netanyahu to rely on the sort of narrow coalition whose members could dictate or torpedo policy and force him from office on a whim — especially if he adopts

any conciliatory policies toward the Palestinians that his ultranationalist partners oppose.

"If Netanyahu wants cohesion and peace among the ranks of his coalition, that would mean isolation from the rest of the world," said political scientist Menachem Hofnung. "If he wants to avoid international condemnation and isolation, then he will face cracks and dissent from within his coalition."

Hofnung said he believes Netanyahu will ultimately give in to Livni's demands for joining the government. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives against New Jersey Nets guard Devin Harris (34) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Ex-Nets Kidd, Wright help Mavs pound New Jersey

DALLAS (AP) — Jason Kidd and Antoine Wright celebrated the first anniversary of their trade from the New Jersey Nets a day early Wednesday, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 113-98 victory over their former team.

Kidd opened the game with three early 3-pointers and scored 23 points, one shy of his season high. He also had 10 assists and a quick-handed steal against Devin Harris — the youngster he was dealt for — during the game-breaking third quarter. Wright hit three 3-pointers and scored 13 of his 20 points in the period.

Josh Howard had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and nine rebounds for Dallas, 7-2 since Kidd was put in charge of the offense. New Jersey lost its fourth straight, all by at least 15 points.

Lakers 129, Warriors 121
At Oakland, California, Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, and Pau Gasol added 24 points and 13 rebounds, as Los Angeles rallied past Golden State for its 13th victory in 15 games.

Continued on Page B11

Woods to return next week at Match Play

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eight months after winning the U.S. Open on one good leg, a healthy Tiger Woods is returning to golf.

Woods said on his Web site on Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship, believing his reconstructed left knee and his game were good enough to win. "I'm now ready to play again," Woods said.

The Match Play Championship in Tucson, Arizona begins on Wednesday, where Woods will end his 254-day break from competition.

The timing could not be better for the U.S. PGA Tour, which has seen television ratings plunge after the world's No. 1 player had to miss the second half of the season, including two majors, the Ryder Cup and the FedEx Cup playoffs. "We are delighted that Tiger is returning to competition and look forward to watching him compete next week," commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement.



In this June 9, 2008, file photo, Tiger Woods tees off on the seventh hole while practicing for the US Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship after a 254-day break from competition.

Associated Press

The last shot Woods hit was a short par putt on the 91st hole of the U.S. Open at San Diego, where he defeated Rocco Mediate in a playoff to capture his 14th major, which Woods described as "probably the best ever" under the circumstances.

He had surgery after the Masters last year to repair cartilage damage in his left

knee, and while preparing to return for the U.S. Open, suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg. He limped badly over the final few days of the U.S. Open, later saying the swelling was so bad at night that he couldn't see his knee cap. A week after winning, he had reconstructive surgery, the third operation on his left knee in five years.

He began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

The last big obstacle to his return was the birth of his son, Charlie Axel, on Feb. 8.

"Elin and our new son Charlie are doing great," Woods wrote. "I've enjoyed my time at home with the family and appreciate everyone's support and kind wishes."

Woods will be under even greater scrutiny when he returns at Match Play, a tournament that was unpredictable even with two good legs. The eight-month break was the longest he has ever gone without playing, and there are questions of rust and how much he has modified his swing after the knee surgery.

Even so, swing coach Hank Haney said last month that Woods would not return until he thought he could win. "He's not looking to just participate," Haney said last month. □



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, center, of Russia, scores on Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price (31) after maneuvering past Canadiens center Kyle Chipchura during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored another extraordinary goal while sliding on the ice, helping the Washington Capitals to a 4-3 shootout win over the Montreal Canadiens in the NHL on Wednesday.

NHL Roundup

Ovechkin freak goal helps Caps down Habs

Passing to himself with a backhand off the boards to get around an opponent, Ovechkin was hooked off his skates and onto his right side, but as he slid toward the net, the league's reigning MVP had the presence of mind to poke the puck under the right pad of the Montreal goaltender.

It was a goal to rival his famous sliding goal against Phoenix in 2006, and helped the Capitals to a win that gave them outright second place in the Eastern Conference.

Alexander Semin and Nicklas Backstrom scored in the shootout for the Capitals, while goaltender Jose Theodore clinched the victory by stopping two shots.

The Canadiens led 3-2 heading into the final three minutes of regulation, but Tom Poti's deflected shot forced overtime. Montreal slipped to outright sixth in the Eastern Conference.

Red Wings 6, Predators 2

In Detroit, the hosts got five power-play goals to crush Nashville.

Continued on Next Page

Seattle coup: Ken Griffey Jr. returning to Mariners



This Aug. 5, 2008 file photo shows Chicago White Sox's Ken Griffey Jr. during batting practice before a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Chicago. The Atlanta Braves held their first full-squad workout without Ken Griffey Jr. But the No. 5 guy on baseball's career homer list could soon be joining a team he's longed to play for, as the two sides tried to put the finishing touches on a contract that would bring him to the Braves.

Associated Press

By GREGG BELL

AP Sports Writer

PEORIA, Arizona (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. is returning to the Seattle Mariners, choosing the city that gave him his start over one closer to his family. Griffey, fifth on the list of all-time home run hitters, agreed a one-year deal with Seattle on Wednesday, having rejected a move to the Atlanta Braves.

"He's coming home. ... I can't begin to tell you how ecstatic we are. He is, too," Seattle general manager Jack Zduriencik said in confirming the deal.

Zduriencik called 39-year-old Griffey "arguably one of the greatest athletes to ever play

in the Seattle area."

The deal is for at least \$2 million, plus incentives, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations who requested anonymity because the Mariners would not discuss contract details. The incentives could earn Griffey an additional million or more.

Now that the Mariners have determined Griffey is healthy following knee surgery — he passed an extensive physical on Sunday — Seattle is hoping he brings at least a semblance of the impetus he provided in the franchise's heyday in the mid-1990s.

Seattle lost 101 games last

season and hasn't been the playoffs since 2001.

Atlanta appeared to be Griffey's choice on Tuesday for the same reason the former Mariners star left Seattle in 2000: geography. The Braves' spring training camp is about a 20-minute drive from the Griffey family home in Orlando, Florida, and Atlanta is about an hour away by plane.

But after conflicting reports about where the aging star would settle, Griffey ultimately chose to follow through on his proclamation that he wanted to finish his career as a Mariner.

"We were informed tonight that Ken Griffey Jr. has decided to return to Seattle," said Braves general manager Frank Wren, who absorbed another in a series of disappointments. "We will continue to be open to other possibilities to improve our outfield offense

and, at the same time, give our young players an opportunity to show us they can win that job." Griffey, son of former MLB slugger Ken Griffey, made his first opening day start with the Mariners as a 19-year-old in 1989. He stayed for 11 seasons and through 10 All-Star games before he asked for a trade closer to his home. The Mariners obliged by sending him to Cincinnati just before the 2000 season.

He has been hampered by injuries since he left and had arthroscopic knee surgery following the 2008 season, the last half of which he spent with the Chicago White Sox. Zduriencik said the Mariners' are convinced he is as healthy as he's been in years.

He is the Mariners' career leader in home runs (398), slugging percentage (.569) and trails only Edgar Martinez in team history in games played

with 1,535. He's also second to Martinez in Seattle history in hits, RBIs, extra-base hits, at-bats, doubles, runs and total bases.

Seattle's starting outfield currently has Ichiro Suzuki in right field, Franklin Gutierrez in center and question marks in left. Griffey could fill that slot or play designated hitter.

The loss of Griffey was another major hitch in Atlanta's efforts to rebuild following a poor 2008 season. In this offseason, the Braves unsuccessfully pursued a trade for San Diego pitcher Jake Peavy and were spurned by free agent pitcher A.J. Burnett. Team officials thought they had a \$30 million, three-year deal to bring shortstop Rafael Furcal back to Atlanta, but were enraged when he wound up re-signing with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Atlanta also lost longtime ace John Smoltz.

NHL ROUNDUP

Continued from Previous Page

Nicklas Lidstrom and Johan Franzen each had two goals and an assist for the Red Wings, who moved back within a point of Western Conference leader San Jose.

Henrik Zetterberg and Jiri Hudler added a goal and an assist each for Detroit.

Steve Sullivan scored his first two goals in two years to account for Nashville's scoring.

Kings 4, Ducks 3

In Anaheim, California, Los Angeles edged its city rival Anaheim in a meeting of two teams on the fringes of playoff contention.

Anaheim's Ryan Getzlaf scored early in the third period to make it 2-2, but Dustin Brown and Anze Kopitar soon responded to give the Kings a two-goal buffer.

The Ducks cut the deficit to one when Chris Kunitz scored with 3:40 to play, but Kings goalie Jonathan Quick shut down the Ducks the rest of the way, finishing with 28 saves.

Blue Jackets 4, Blues 3

In Columbus, Ohio, victory over St. Louis gave Columbus its best record ever in its eight-year history.

The result put the Blue Jackets six games over a 50 per cent winning record for the first time, and kept them in with a chance of a first ever playoff appearance.

Goalie Steve Mason made 21 saves — none bigger than a key stop in the closing seconds — for Columbus, which moved into a tie for fifth in the Western Conference with Vancouver.

Rick Nash, Manny Malhotra and Fedor Tyutin each had a goal and an assist for Columbus, and Andrew Murray also scored.

Brad Winchester, Alex Steen and T.J. Oshie had goals for St. Louis, which had won its five previous games against Columbus. The Blues scored two third-period goals to cut the deficit to one and make the final few minutes interesting.

In New York, the Rangers and besieged coach Tom Renney got a much-needed win in the all-New York showdown.

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New Orleans Hornets guard Chris Paul, right, and Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard go for a rebound in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Associated Press

NBA ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B9

Lamar Odom scored 22 points for the Lakers, who have improved the NBA's best record to 44-10 with back-to-back wins following the All-Star break. Los Angeles trailed late into the fourth quarter, but made a 17-3 run beginning with back-to-back 3-pointers by Trevor Ariza, who finished with 17 points. Stephen Jackson and Corey Maggette scored 24 points apiece for Golden State.

Hornets 117, Magic 85

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 36 points and 10 assists as New Orleans handed Orlando its worst loss of the season. Rasual Butler added 15 points, and David West had 14 for the Hornets, who've won their first two games following the All-Star break.

Rashard Lewis had 17 points, and J.J. Redick 14 for Orlando, which shot poorly from the field and free-throw line. Dwight Howard had 12 points and was a non-factor for most of the last three quarters, when he scored only two points.

Orlando's previous worst loss was by 19 points to Boston on Dec. 1.

Timberwolves 111, Heat 104

At Miami, Sebastian Telfair had 30 points and eight assists and Ryan Gomes added 20 points as Minnesota hit a season-high 14 3-pointers to spoil Jermaine O'Neal's debut in Miami.

Minnesota blew an 11-point lead with 10 minutes remaining, but recovered in time largely thanks to Telfair, who hit a 3-pointer with 1:26 left for a four-point lead —

and the Timberwolves held on to snap a five-game slide.

Dwyane Wade finished with 37 points and 12 assists for Miami. O'Neal, who sustained a right eye injury in the third quarter and missed 13 minutes, had 13 points in his first game since being acquired from Toronto last week.

Cavaliers 93, Raptors 76

At Toronto, LeBron James had 20 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 22 points in Cleveland's win over Toronto.

Needing two rebounds and one assist in the final quarter for his 21st career triple-double, James had six points but only one rebound before leaving the game for good with just over 3 minutes remaining. Mo Williams added 17 points for the Cavaliers, 6-2 in their last eight games. Joey Graham had 15 points for Toronto.

Nuggets 101, 76ers 89

At Philadelphia, Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and 14 rebounds and Chauncey Billups added 22 points as Denver downed Philadelphia for its third straight victory.

Billups scored 17 points in the third quarter — 13 during a 24-4 run that erased a 10-point deficit and gave Denver a 61-51 lead. □

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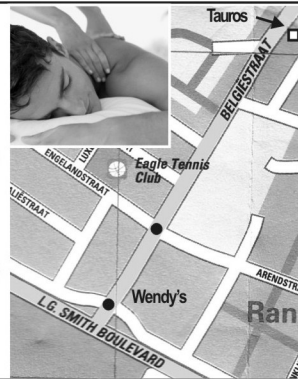
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week# 8, Dutch Village - studio R#133, Poolview - US\$7,500	week# 9, La Cabana - 1Bdr delux R#401d, OceanFront- US\$20,000	week# 9 - DiviLinks - Studio R#4205, poolv. - US\$15,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-2Bdr Supreme,OceanFront US\$30,000	Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000	week# 7+8- DiviLinks - Studio. R#4205,Poolview- US\$30,000
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000	Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613,PoolOcean-US\$18,000	week# 3 -DiviVillage -studio R#5508,Golfpoolv.-US\$8,000
week#2-17-OccidentaGrandI-1B Delux,OceanView- US\$14,000	Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500	week#3+4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw
week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000	FloatingW#18-50 Marriott Ocean 2Bdr, Oceanview -US\$ 20,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR. Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr, OceanView-US\$18,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000
week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 1Bdr,OceanFront-US\$23,000	week#9-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath. R#211,Oceanfront- US\$20,000
week#2+3+4,-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanView-US\$26,000	2xweek#1-17Occidental-Bdrsup. Oceanfro-US\$35,000Bothweeks
week# 5 + 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000	PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000	week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000
week# 6 -DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 1 -Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000	week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000
week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000	week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212,on the beach-US\$20,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a,Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 3 + 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr R#2142,Oceanv-US\$13,000pw	week# 6+7,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541 ,Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr R#123,on the beach-US\$8,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 11,DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49,O.The B.-US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf 2bdr,Gardenview-US\$25,000	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101,Poolview-US\$10,000
week# 8 , La Cabana -2Bdr R#301E,OceanFr-US\$25,000	week#9 ,La Cabana B.R.C- stu. R#444B,OceanPool-US\$7,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000
week# 2+3, Renaissance-1Bdr. R#2327,POV- US\$13,000 p.w	week# 4+5,Costa Linda -2Br R#4019,OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr. R#346E,OceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500
week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week#10, DutchVillage -1 Bdr. R#28 ,on the beach-US\$9,000	week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000
week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$12,000	2x week2-17,OccidentalGr-1Bd. supreme,Oceanfr. - US\$35,000	week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202,Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#-7,Renaissance S.- 1Bdr R#2537,Poolocean-US\$15,000	week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week# 3+4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49,PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7,La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339,OceanFr-US\$8,000	week#8 ,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000	For rent: week 8, Renaissance- R#2536,1Br-OceanV-US\$1,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c,OceanVi-US\$9,000	week# 8&9,Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w.	week#10.DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121,Poolview-US\$8,000

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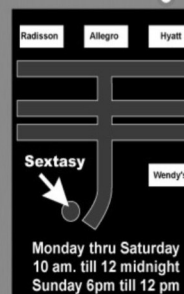
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Chile evacua a decenas por aumento actividad volcán

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Chile evacuó el jueves a más de un centenar de habitantes que había regresado al destruido pueblo de Chaitén, por un fuerte incremento en la actividad del volcán del mismo nombre que está situado cerca de la localidad.

El volcán Chaitén entró en erupción en mayo del 2008 y obligó la evacuación de más de 7.000 personas, por la expulsión de cenizas que cruzaron hasta Argentina y el desborde de ríos que destruyeron casi todo el poblado.

El macizo tiene "una fractura superior a un kilómetro en el domo, sector sur, con evidentes señales de colapso", informó la Oficina Nacional de Emergencias (Onemi) tras el sobrevuelo de autoridades y expertos al volcán.

"Se observa gran emanación de gases y piroclastos. De producirse lluvias intensas



Foto de archivo de humo saliendo desde el volcán Chaitén, Chile, 31 mayo 2008. Las autoridades chilenas evacuaron el jueves a cerca de un centenar de habitantes que había regresado al destruido pueblo de Chaitén, por un incremento en la actividad del volcán del mismo nombre vecino a la localidad. REUTERS/Cristian Brown/Intendencia Region de los Lagos/Handout (CHILE)

sobre el volcán, podrían generarse aluviones de magnitud, provocando nuevos daños en la ciudad de Chaitén", agregó.

El macizo recrudesció su actividad eruptiva alrededor de las 11.00 hora local (1400 GMT), lo

que provocó la inmediata evacuación, vía terrestre, de unas 160 personas por parte de la policía local, según la Onemi

"Carabineros de Chaitén ha evacuado a través de un bus, camionetas y furgones a 160 personas" hacia el

sector El Amarillo, que está fuera de riesgo, aseguró la entidad.

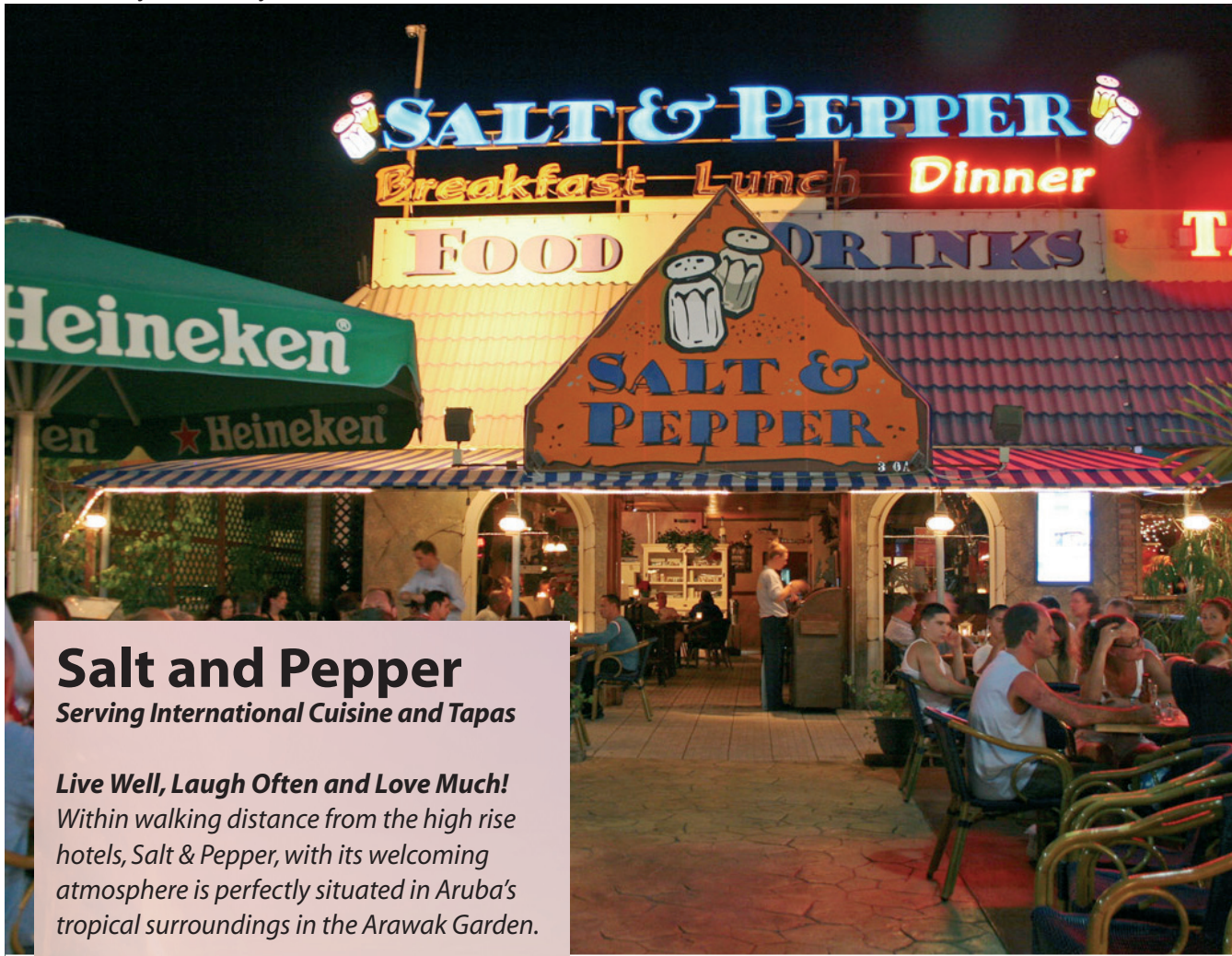
La semidestruida localidad de Chaitén está ubicada a más de 1.200 kilómetros al sur de Santiago y a unos 10 kilómetros del volcán.

PELIGRO PERMANENTE

El Gobierno dispuso semanas atrás la reubicación del pueblo de Chaitén; sin embargo, decenas de personas, que antes vivían en esa ciudad, han optado por reinstalarse en la zona pese a las permanentes advertencias de peligro de las autoridades.

"Miré para arriba, (y vi) una tremenda columna, igual que al principio, de un kilómetro y medio. No se veía mucho porque estaba todo nublado, y una feroz columna y ruido", describió Claudio Chelgui, uno de los que escogió volver al pueblo, a Radio Cooperativa.

El Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería (Sernageomin) consideró que el estado del domo del Chaitén es "un importante peligro para la ciudad". El Gobierno ha asegurado que no tiene hasta el momento reporte de heridos. □



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